



## ACTS AND LAWS,

Made and passed by the General Court or Assembly  
of the State of *Connecticut*, holden at *Hartford*,  
(in said State) on the second Thursday of May,  
Anno Domini, 1786.

An Act for the better methodizing and regulating the public Accounts, and for effecting a speedy Settlement of all outstanding Debts due to this State.

**B**E it enacted by the Governor, Council and Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That there shall be annually appointed by the General Assembly a Comptroller of all public Accounts of this State; and the said Comptroller is hereby authorized to appoint from Time to Time as he shall find necessary, one Clerk or more to assist him in his said Office and Duty. And in order that the said Comptroller may be enabled to execute the Duties of his Office, he shall have free Access to the public Offices of the Treasurer, the Secretary, and the Pay-Table, or any other public Offices or Records, with full Power to examine all Books, Accounts, Documents or other Papers whatsoever, that respect, or have any Relation to his said Office and Trust, and may call for any Acts, and Resolutions, and also for such general or particular Abstracts or Statements of any and all public Accounts as he shall judge necessary, in order to investigate their real situation. And it shall be the Duty of the said Comptroller from Time to Time diligently to examine, and state the amount of all the public Debts, and Credits of this State with the United States, or with any public Officer, or other Individual or Community whatever.

Comptroller  
authorized  
to appoint a  
Clerk.

May have ac-  
cess to the  
public Offices  
or Records.

To state the  
public debts  
and credits of  
this state with  
the U.S. States.

And in order to effect and bring about a speedy Settlement with such as are indebted to this State,

Comptroller.

To institute  
suits.

*It is hereby Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Comptroller shall be fully authorized, and impowered to institute Suits at Law in the Name of this State against any and every Person, or Persons, or Body of Men, who have received any public Monies, or Property, by any Way or Means whatsoever, and who have not regularly accounted for the same, (excepting only the Collectors of the public Taxes in the State:) And for this Purpose the said Comptroller is authorized to employ, or substitute an Attorney or Attorneys under him, to sue for such Monies, or other Property so unaccounted for, and pursue the same to final Judgment and Execution in favour of this State. And that the Officer who shall collect the Monies on such Execution, and all other Persons who shall by the Appointment, Order, or Direction of such Comptroller receive the Monies of this State, shall pay the same (when collected) to the Treasurer of this State, taking duplicate Receipts therefor, and lodge one of them with the Secretary, and the other with the Comptroller. And it shall be the Duty of the said Comptroller to exhibit to the General Assembly in May and October annually, (and oftener if thereto required) an Account of all Monies received into the Treasury, on any, and all Taxes that have been laid and are yet unsettled, or may from Time to Time be laid, and assessed by the General Assembly, together with the Deficiencies and Abatements made on such Taxes; also, an Account of all Monies that may be received into the Treasury for Fines, Forfeitures, Penalties and Confiscations, or by any Way, or Means whatever, together with an Account of all Debts due to this State, and from whom: And also, a general or particular Statement of the Appropriation of the Monies received in as aforesaid, and in such manner as he may judge most expedient to shew their real Situation, or according to such Directions or Order as he may receive from the General Assembly, or (in their receipt) from the Governor.*

To superin-  
tend the fi-  
nances.

And such Comptroller shall have the general Superintendance of all Matters that respect the Subject of Finance; and shall advise as to the Mode of keeping, stating, adjusting and liquidating the public Accounts of this State, subject to the Controul and Order of the General Assembly, and shall take suitable Care that the regular and necessary Checks in the Mode of keeping Accounts be instituted and maintained, and if any further Regulations may in his Opinion be necessary to compleat the System of his Department, to lay the same before the General Assembly as often as he may think proper, and all Plans, and Calculations formed for the Purpose of lessening the public Expences, and for using and improving the public Monies to the best Advantage, and that may serve to the Furtherance and Promotion of Frugality and Oeconomy in the public Expenditures, or that may have a Tendency to establish and support the public Credit of this State, by proper Funds, or otherwise, or that may in any respect have relation to the well ordering, and regulating the Business of his Department and Office, shall be laid before the Legislature of this State for their Consideration by such Comptroller at the opening of every stated Session of Assembly.

Orders on the  
Treasurer to  
be entered at  
the Pay table.

*And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That no Order hereafter to be drawn on the Treasurer, shall be paid until the same shall be entered on the Books of the Pay-Table Office, and a Certificate of such Entry indorsed on such Orders by the Committee of Pay-Table.*

This Act to continue and be in force two Years, from and after the rising of this Assembly.

## An Act for erecting and establishing a new County.

**B**E it Enacted by the Governor, Council, and Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That the Towns of Tolland, Coventry, Hebron, Bolton, Somers, Stafford, Willington, Union, and the Parish of Ellington in East-Windsor be, and they are hereby constituted a County by the Name of the County of Tolland.

Towns in  
Tolland  
County.

And be it further Enacted, That there shall be annually holden in said County two Courts of common Pleas, or County Courts, one on the third Tuesday of March, and the other on the third Tuesday of September in said Tolland, and also one Superior Court shall be holden in said Tolland in and for said County on the last Tuesday save one in January annually. And all Causes already instituted in the Counties of Hartford and Windham, in favour of, or against any Person or Persons in either of said Towns, shall proceed to final Judgment, and Execution; and all Writs of Execution already issued shall be proceeded on as though this Act had not been made.

Time of  
holding  
Courts in  
Tolland  
County.

An Act in Addition to a Law of this State, entitled,  
 " An Act for the appointing of Sheriffs, and for  
 " empowering and regulating them in the execu-  
 " tion of their Office."

**B**E it Enacted by the Governor, Council, and Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That the Sheriff of the County of Tolland for the Time being shall not appoint, or impower more than the Number of three Deputies to act under him in said Office at any one Time.

Sheriff of  
Toll. County  
allowed to  
appoint three  
Deputies.An Act in Addition to an Act, entitled, " An Act for  
 " providing and regulating Jurors in Civil Actions."

**B**E it Enacted by the Governor, Council, and Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That the several Towns in the County of Tolland shall annually choose the number of Jurymen to the Name of each Town annexed, viz.

Towns to  
choose Ju-  
rors.Tolland, Twelve.  
Hebron, Ten.  
Coventry, Twelve.Bolton, Eight.  
Somers, Ten.  
Stafford, Ten.Willington, Ten.  
Union, Six.  
Ellington, Eight.Names of  
Towns and  
number in  
each.

And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the Civil Authority, Select-Men, Constables, and Grand-Jury-Men in the Towns aforesaid, shall on the third Monday of June next choose their Jury-men to serve in the present Year.

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### Rates. Lands.

#### An Act in further Addition to, and Explanation of an Act, entitled, "An Act for collecting and paying Rates, or Taxes."

Preamble.

WHEREAS by said Act it is Enacted, "That all the real Estate that any one is seized and possessed of, in his own Right in Fee, within this State, shall be liable to stand chargeable with all the public Taxes due from the Owner thereof, and shall remain as a Lien thereon, until the same are fully paid; notwithstanding any subsequent Sale, or Transfer thereof, or any Attachment thereon." And whereas by the Provisions of said Act, for the Redemption of any such Estate, some Doubts have arisen whether any other Person has a Right to redeem Estate sold agreeable to said Act for the Payment of Taxes than the Proprietor, or Proprietors, for whose Taxes said Estate was sold; which Doubts to remove,

Purchasers  
&c. may  
redeem estate  
sold for taxes  
on payment,  
&c.

RESOLVED by this Assembly, That the intent, and meaning of said Act is, that any Proprietor, whether original, or an after Purchaser, or any Creditor attaching such Estate, or their Heirs, may at any Time within the Time limited, redeem said Estate, by paying the principal Sum for which such Sale is made, and double Interest thereon, in the same Monies and Securities due on the Taxes for which the Sale was made, and all Cost arising thereon.

Creditors  
may redeem  
and hold the  
same as a  
Mortgage;

And it is hereby further Enacted by the Governor, Council and Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That for the future it shall and may be lawful for any Creditor, or Creditors to any Person whose real Estate has been sold for Taxes, agreeable to said former Act, and not redeemed within the Time limited (by said Proprietor, or Proprietors, or their Heirs or Representatives, or other Person attaching, previous to the Sale made for said Taxes) may redeem the same in the same Manner, as is provided for the Proprietor or Proprietors, on whose Account such Sale was made, and shall hold the same as a Lien for Security in Nature of a Mortgage, for so much as he shall advance for the Redemption thereof, and which shall be first paid out of the avails of said Estate before any other Demand whatsoever.

and be paid  
principal and  
double interest.

And it is hereby further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That where any Creditor to the real Owner, or Owners of such Estate, in Order to clear the same from the Taxes, shall advance and pay the public Demands thereon, whether before the Sale of such Estate at Auction, or after, shall be paid out of the avails of such Estate, or otherwise, the full value of the Monies, or whatever else he has so advanced, and double Interest thereon, before said Estate shall be cleared of that Incumbrance.

#### An Act for the Sale of Lands belonging to this State.

Probate to  
order sale of  
lands be-  
longing to  
the state.

BE it Enacted by the Governor, Council and Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That the several Judges of Probate under whose Administration, or within whose Districts, any Lands belonging to this State are now unsold, may, and they are hereby authorised and impowered to give Orders for the Disposal of such Lands, at private Sale, in the Whole or by Parts, or at public Vendue, at discretion, as shall be found most convenient, and beneficial for the State.

And said Judges of Probate respectively, are hereby authorized and impowered in behalf of this State, to make and execute deeds of Conveyance

veyance, with Warranty, of such Lands in due form of Law, and the same shall be good, authentic, and legal Evidence of Title of such Lands to the Grantees, in the several Courts of Law in this State.

And all such Land, already agreed to be sold by Order of Law, and Deeds not yet given, may be confirmed to the Purchasers by Deeds executed by the respective Judges of Probate, as by this Act is provided. And said Judges of Probate shall receive Payment for all such Lands in Specie, or liquidated Securities of this State for Lawful Money, on Interest, and shall render an Account thereof to the Treasurer of this State within one Year from the Time of such Sale.

Judges of  
Probate to  
receive pay-  
ment.

The Lands in New-Haven, New-London and Groton, appropriated for building Forts, &c. for defence of this State, to be reserved for that Use, any Thing in this Act notwithstanding.

*And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid,* That said Judges of Probate shall call to Account all Persons in their several Districts, who by Virtue of any Law, or otherwise have had the Possession of any Estate for the Use of this State, and not duly accounted for the same, and receive Payment as aforesaid, and pay the Balance that shall be due into the Treasury; and in Case any Person, accountable as aforesaid, shall neglect or refuse to render an Account, it shall be the Duty of such Judge of Probate to proceed in a due Course of Law against such Person, in the Name and Behalf of this State, to final Judgement and Execution for recovery thereof.

Call lessees  
to account.

### An Act in addition to a Law of this State, entitled, “An Act for collecting and paying Rates or Taxes.”

*WHEREAS various Opinions and Practices have been adopted relative to what Fees might lawfully be received by Sheriffs, charged with executing Distresses, or Warrants issued by the Treasurer for collecting Taxes due to the State. And whereas it is necessary that the Law be made clear, and definite in this respect, and that adequate Provision be at the same Time made to pay said Officers charged with the aforesaid Collections :*

Preamble.

*Be it therefore Enacted by the Governor, Council, and Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the Authority of the same,* That the same Mileage shall be allowed the Sheriffs for executing said Distresses, or Warrants issued by the Treasurer of the State, as is by Law allowed to Sheriffs for Writs of Summons, or Attachment; and that said Sheriffs be allowed to collect of the Person, or Persons against whom any such Distress or Warrant shall issue, One Shilling on the Pound, for the first Pound, and Three Pence on the Pound for every subsequent Pound, which he shall really and truly collect for the Use of the State; which Fees shall be payable in Specie, or Bills of public Credit, or public Securities, in the Proportion, and as the same is demanded by such Warrant, not counting Fees on any Sum which may be paid to the Treasurer by any Person, or Persons against whom said Warrant or Execution issued.

Sheriffs fees  
on Treasur-  
er's warrants  
for collect-  
ing;

That whenever any Sheriff shall commit any Person or Persons to Prison, by virtue of such Warrant, he shall be allowed besides his said Mileage, the same Costs for his Assistance as is by Law allowed for executing Writs of Execution; and shall also be allowed upon any such Commitment, and for a Copy of his Distress, or Warrant, Six Shillings,

for commit-  
ting to prison.

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### Freemans Meeting. Excise.

on every such Warrant not exceeding One Hundred Pounds, and Six Shillings on every subsequent Hundred Pounds contained in such Warrant, and which shall appear to be due at the Time of Commitment, payable in Specie, or Bills of public Credit, or in the public Securities, according to, and in the Proportion which shall be demanded by such Warrant ; and which Fees and Costs shall be distinctly charged by said Sheriffs on every Warrant which they shall return to the Treasurer.

on return of  
*non est inventus.*

And in case of a Return of *Non est Inventus*, on any such Distress and Warrant, the Sheriffs shall be entitled to Mileage, or travelling Fees only.

Former fees  
to be paid  
on alias Dis-  
tress, &c.

That the Treasurer of the State whenever he shall issue an Alias Distress or Warrant, in consequence of such Commitment, shall insert under the Title of Costs, the Amount of such Fees, and Costs lawfully charged, and when it shall be necessary, reduce the same to Specie, at the current Exchange at the Time when such Alias Warrant shall issue ; and said Treasurer shall also proceed in the same Manner in settling the Fees and Costs upon the Returns of all such Warrants in his Office, upon which no Alias Distress or Warrant has been issued.

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### An Act in addition to a Law of this State, entitled “ an Act for regulating the Election of the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, Assistants,” &c.

Freeman's  
Meetings in  
Tolland  
County.

**B**E it Enacted by the Governor, Council and Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That the Meetings of the Freemen in the several Towns in the County of Tolland, for the Purposes mentioned in said Act, shall be on the first Monday after the first Tuesday of April, and on the second Tuesday of September annually.

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### An Act in Addition to, and alteration of the Statute Law, for laying an Excise on sundry Articles of Consumption within this State.

Retailers,  
&c. to exhibit  
manifests on  
oath.

**B**E it enacted by the Governor, Council, and Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That all such Retailers, and Consumers of any Goods, Wares and Merchandise which by said Act, or by any Law of this State, are or shall be subjected to the Payment of Excise, as have not kept a particular Account of such Articles as aforesaid, as they have sold by Retail, or consumed since the first Day of January, 1785, shall when required by the Collector, or his Deputy, or within eight Days afterwards, and before the first Day of September next, exhibit to such Collector or his Deputy, a true Manifest in Writing, under the Oath of such Retailer or Consumer, of all such Goods, Wares and Merchandise, by Law subject to Excise, as he or they have sold by Retail, or consumed since the first Day of January, A. D. 1785, and until the Time of rendering such Manifest on which the Excise hath not been paid, according to his or their best Knowledge and Judgment, and shall pay the Excise thereon as the Law requires.

And

## Excise.

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And all Retailers and Consumers of any Articles subjected by Law to the Payment of Excise, shall once in six Months, that is to say, on or before the first Day of January, and July in each Year, exhibit to the Collector of Excise or his Deputy, a true Manifest in Writing, on Oath, of all such Goods on which the Excise hath not before been paid, and shall produce the original Invoices, or Bills of Parcels thereof as Vouchers, and shall, if required, give true Copies of all such Invoices or Bills of Parcels to such Collector or his Deputy, and shall pay the Excise by Law required on such Articles, or secure the same with Surety to the Satisfaction of such Collector or his Deputy, payable to the Treasurer of this State, one Half thereof at the End of three Months, and the other Half at the End of twelve Months from the Date of such Securities, and Interest after payable until paid. And the Oath to be taken as aforesaid, shall be in the Words following, viz.

Retailers,  
&c. once in  
6 months to  
exhibit a Ma-  
nifest on oath.

Shall produce  
invoices, &c.

"YOU swear by the Name of the Everliving GOD, that the Manifest "you now exhibit to me is true, and that the Prices set to the Articles "therein enumerated, are the Prices at which those Articles were *bona fide* bought, and that the same contains all the Articles you have on "Hand, or have sold by Retail, or consumed, or otherwise disposed of "within six Months last past, subjected by Law to the Payment of Excise, "on which the Excise hath not been paid, nor secured to be paid; and that "the Invoices you now exhibit are the true Invoices, containing all the "Articles specified in said Manifest."

Oath.

*So help you God.*

And every such Retailer or Consumer who shall neglect or refuse to observe and keep the Laws that are or shall be made and in force concerning Excise, and being duly convicted thereof, shall pay a Fine to the Treasurer of this State, to the Amount of Fourfold the Sum of the Excise, which in the Judgment of the Court that shall have Cognizance thereof, such Person or Persons so neglecting or refusing ought to have paid, and shall pay Cost of Prosecution.

Penalty.

And it shall be the Duty of the Collector of Excise in each County, or his Deputy, as often as once in six Months, to make due Presentment to the Court of Common Pleas, in their respective Counties, of all Breaches of this Act, or to an Assistant or Justice of the Peace, where, in the Opinion of such Collector the Nature of the Offence doth not require a greater Penalty than by the Laws of this State, such Assistant or Justice of the Peace may give Judgment for, and upon such Complaint such Assistant or Justice of the Peace may proceed to give Judgment for a Penalty not exceeding four Pounds.

Collector to  
make pre-  
sentment.

And all Prosecutions now depending against any Person or Persons for the Breach of any Laws concerning Excise, shall cease and determine upon his or their first conforming to this Act, by paying the Excise according to the Provisions thereof, and the Interest thereon from the Time such Excise ought to have been paid, and paying Cost of such Prosecution; any Law of this State notwithstanding.

Former pro-  
secutions to  
cease on pay-  
ment, &c.

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Excise. Societies. Listers.

An Act in Addition to, and Alteration of an Act, in further Addition to an Alteration of an Act for levying and collecting a Duty on certain Articles of Goods, Wares and Merchandise imported into this State by Land or Water, and one other Act for laying an Excise on sundry Articles of Consumption within this State.

Naval-Officers, &c.  
render account to the  
Pay-table.

**B**E it enacted by the Governor, Council, and Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That the several Naval-Officers, Collectors of Impost, and Collectors of Excise, duly appointed and qualified, shall on the first Days of April and September annually, render to the Committee of Pay-Table, a true Account of all the Monies collected, and several Kinds of Securities received for Impost or Excise by them or their Deputies, and pay and deliver to the Treasurer of this State, the Monies collected, or Certificates for Interest received as aforesaid, taking duplicate Receipts therefor, one of which shall be by them lodged in the Office of the Committee of Pay-Table; any Law to the contrary notwithstanding.

Pay-Table to  
send a copy  
to the Clerk  
of the County  
Court.

*And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid,* That the Collectors of Excise, in rendering their Accounts as aforesaid, shall state the Amount of the Excise received in each Town from which they are impowered to collect, as also from the Individuals; and that the Committee of Pay-Table shall from Time to Time transmit a Copy of the Account of Excise, rendered by the Collector of Excise to the Clerk of the County Court in the County to which said Collector belongs.

An Act in Addition to a Law of this State, entitled,  
“ An Act for forming, ordering, and regulating Societies.”

Preamble.

*WHEREAS in and by said Act where two, or more Societies constituted by  
Act of the General Assembly, have the same Limits, and Boundaries, and  
there happens to be new Inhabitants within said Limits, provision is made to  
which of said Societies they shall belong; but no provision is therein made to  
which of the said Societies the Taxes arising on the Lands of non-resident Prop-  
rietors shall belong, which occasions much Difficulty and Dispute; which  
to prevent,*

Society taxes  
on non-resi-  
dents where  
payable.

**B**E it Enacted by the Governor, Council, and Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That in all Cafes where there now are or hereafter shall be, two or more Societies within the same Limits constituted as aforesaid, the Society Taxes arising on all Lands and other Estate belonging to Non-Resident Proprietors, shall be, and belong to the Society lowest in the List within such Limits which support the Ministry by taxing.

An Act in Addition to an Act for the direction of  
Listers in their Office and Duty.

Meadow

**B**E it Enacted by the Governor, Council, and Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That all Meadow Lands in the Towns of Middletown, Haddam, East-Haddam and Chat-

ham, in the County of Middlesex, whether improved for Plowing or Mowing, shall be set in the List at Fifteen Shillings per Acre, except Bog Meadow, which Bog Meadow, and all other Lands in said County of Middlesex, and in the County of Tolland, shall be set in the List at the same Rate as the Lands in the Counties of New-London and Windham.

how set in the list.

An Act in Addition to an Act, entitled, "An Act for constituting Judges and Justices of the Peace in this State, and for empowering and directing them in their respective Offices."

**B**E it Enacted by the Governor, Council and Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That for the future where it shall so happen, that there shall be so near a Relation between any Judge or Justice, and any of the Parties, as between Uncle and Nephew, either by Nature or Marriage, such Judge or Justice shall have no Power to Vote, or give Sentence therein; any thing in said former Act notwithstanding.

Uncle, &c.  
by marriage  
not to judge.

### An Act for the Encouragement of raising Sheep.

**B**E it enacted by the Governor, Council and Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That all Owners of any Sheep in this State, after the first Day of January 1787, may annually during the Continuance of this Act, insert, and certify in their several Lists of Polls and Rateable Estate, given into the Listers of the respective Towns to which they belong, an Account of the Number of grown Sheep which they severally owned at the Time of shearing, from which a Coat, or Fleece of Wool was shorn, or taken in the Season next preceding the giving in such List while their Property. And thereupon the said Listers in making up the Lists of Estate as aforesaid, shall credit, and deduct from the Sum Total of the Lists of such Owners of Sheep, to the Amount and at the Rate of Four Shillings per Head for each such Sheep shorn as aforesaid. And the said Listers shall also annually transmit to the General Assembly, in their Return of the Lists of their respective Towns, the whole Number of Sheep in each Town, inserted in the Lists as aforesaid.

Sheep to be  
credited in  
lists.

*Be it further Enacted and Provided,* That if such Listers by inspecting the Lists of rateable Estate as the Law directs, shall find that any Person or Persons have inserted in their said List, any greater Number of Sheep than were actually owned and shorn as aforesaid, it shall be the Duty of such Listers to add to the List of such Person or Persons the whole Sum which by Virtue of this Act they had deducted; and also at the Rate of Sixteen Shillings per Head for each surplus Number inserted as aforesaid.

Persons giv-  
ing false lists  
to be four-  
folded.

*Be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid,* That any Number of Sheep, not exceeding Twenty, the Property of any one Person, shall not be liable to be taken, or disposed of by Warrant, or Execution for any Tax or Debt whatsoever, from and after the rising of this Assembly, and during the continuance of this Act; and this Act shall be, and remain in force until the first Day of January, which will be in the Year One Thousand, Seven Hundred and Ninety.

Sheep ex-  
empted from  
executions,  
&c.

An Act in Addition to a Law of this State, entitled,  
“An Act for levying and collecting a Duty on cer-  
tain Articles of Goods, Wares and Merchandise,  
imported into this State by Land or Water.”

Additional  
duty on nails  
imported.

**B**E it Enacted by the Governor, Council and Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That a Duty of One Half Penny lawful Money, in Addition to any Duty already laid, shall be paid on each Pound of Nails imported into this State by Land or Water, from and after the first Day of January next, for the Term of five Years, to be collected and paid in the same Manner as is already provided by Law in regard to Duty on other Articles.

Proviso.

Provided, That nothing in this Act shall extend to Nails wrought or manufactured in these United States.

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